

# Five things you should know

## ABOUT THE ALRC RECOMMENDATIONS:

1

The ALRC paper is heavily and unjustifiably weighted against the religious freedom of Christian schools and in favour of non-discrimination, particularly in areas of sexuality and gender identity.

2

If these proposals were to become law, Christian schools may face legal action from activists who are opposed to Christian beliefs about marriage, sexuality and gender identity.

3

The freedom to establish religious schools, and the right of parents to educate their children in accordance with their religious values, are enshrined in international law.<sup>2</sup>

4

Religious schools are not seeking the right to discriminate against staff and students who identify as LGBTQ+ because of their identity.

They simply want to be able to employ staff who share or are willing to uphold the religious beliefs of the school.

5

These proposals would make it difficult for Christian schools to maintain their religious ethos and culture through staff recruitment and retention. They would also force schools to allow the promotion of LGBTQ+ ideology which may contradict the schools' religious beliefs.

To better understand the impact of these proposals, here are some practical examples:

- A Christian school could be accused of discrimination if it disciplines a student for engaging in sexual behaviours at school that contravene the school's ethos.
- Christian schools may face liability for discrimination if they reject a male student's request to present as a girl and use female bathrooms, pronouns, and uniform and play on girls' sports teams.
- A Christian school may also face liability if it requires teachers to adhere to certain standards of sexual behaviour that support the Christian values and ethos of the school.

The proposed changes to the SDA proposed by the ALRC could have significant implications for Christian schools and their ability to maintain their religious ethos and culture, and must be rejected.

<sup>1</sup> Anti-discrimination laws vary around the states and territories in Australia. The SDA currently provides protection to Christian schools by allowing them to preference staff who support the ethos of the school.

<sup>2</sup> Article 18, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

